

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday, May 7, 2013 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members S. Carroll, F. Esposito, M. Kelly, S. Krishnan, M. Schaaf, D. Stillinger, Township Committee Liaison Kathy Abbott.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2013 and January 2014 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2013 AND JANUARY 2014

Every first Tuesday February through December 2013 and the second Tuesday in January 2014.

February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July NO MEETING, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3 in 2013 and January 14, 2014.

APPROVE GREEN TEAM AND CTEC MINUTES April 2, 2013

Frank Esposito motioned to approve the CTEC and Green Team minutes and Steve Carroll 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING

Sustainable Jersey actions reviewed, modified list to reflect recertification due date of February 2016.

Complete Streets in process. Green Checklist in process. NRI 2013 update has been posted on the CTEC website. S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

SAPLING SALE

Sapling Sale was an overwhelming success. Only a few trees were not sold and those will be used on Chatham Township open space. 25 trees planted by Open Space; 25 to potted and available to the township over the next 2 years. Matt Palmers knowledge to trees is immeasurable. Sent thank you note to Investors Savings Bank. As requested by K. Abbott, Mike Kelly will email report of disbursement funds from Investors Savings to K. Abbott, T. Ciccarone, N. Hagner.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL WORKDAY

Over 40 volunteers clipped brambles, picked up trash (30 bags), cleared the footpath and spread woodchips. The entrance area at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area is now open and inviting and the path is much improved. Consider adding a bike rack and benches.

REQUEST FROM TRANSOPTIONS.ORG FOR THE TWP TO APPLY TO BE A SMART WORKPLACE

- encourage green commuting such as bike rack outside the municipal building, teleconferencing, carpooling.
- some businesses in town would like to receive green business awards/suggestions and we can mail their application out with our recycling tonnage requests at no cost.
- be on the look out for green business promotional items or Sustainable Jersey green business communications.
- NJ Smart Workplaces Application at <http://www.transoptions.org/?p=njswapp>

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW. Shunpike subdivision, property near Long Hill Chapel, backs up to wetlands, Should request LOI. Send letter to Planning Board.

PENDING. Bhee properties, Block 61, Lot 10, 697 Fairmount Ave. Application to Planning Board to subdivide an acre property into two 1/2-acre lots in the R-3 (1/2-acre) zone. Fifty-foot drop from Sunset Drive to Fairmount Ave. Proposed usable lot area is only half of that required on each lot. Variances requested for very large deviations from required slope disturbances. Soil is loose and depth to bedrock is small so much potential for erosion and storm water runoff. Building site plans to be revised and resubmitted to Planning Board.

PENDING. 23 Loantaka Lane South, Block 139, lot 17. Application by Home Help New Jersey, LLC to NJDEP for renewal of wetland disturbance permit. CTEC sent letters to NJDEP and others noting that the proposed required wetland compensation area is not on property owned by the applicant but is on land owned by the Morris County Park Commission.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance.

REPORTS

Planning Board report. Master Plan will be put on Township website. Bhee properties. Green Checklist – revised list well received by PB members. - D. Stillinger reporting for L. Caprioglio, Planning Board liaison.

Township Committee report. Steep Slope Ordinance for 23 Susan Drive accepted. Paper street purchase – Discussion by CTEC regarding residents purchasing paper streets; the use of paper streets as walking paths. K. Abbott, Township Committee liaison. S. Carroll asked to consider installing a bike rack at town hall.

Open Space Committee report. No meeting last month. Trees with deer protection have been planted at the Averett. S. Krishnan and M. Schaaf, Open Space Committee liaisons.

Communications Committee report. Website up to date. Archive page on EC website is an excellent resource, serves as backup for important files. Changes in the works for the Township website. EC website update. F. Esposito, Chair.

Recycling Committee report. Recycling Awards dinner held. Awards given for CTEC recycling video and Rocket Composter. Frequency and cost of pickups is being reviewed. Would like to obtain a recycling tonnage report to review usage. F. Esposito, Chair.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report.

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- Report on Annual Workday held on Saturday, April 20 at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area.
- Greeve conservation easement needs to be accepted and recorded. Planning Board final subdivision approval was granted 3-21-96.
- Would like a copy of the Report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District (www.mcsd.org/) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control.
- Safe Routes to School - update. Report submitted to Township Committee, application will be made for grants and Gold status with the SRTS organization. "This (Chatham school district) was the only school district in which every school participated in SRTS programs throughout the school year." K. Abbott.
- Complete Streets - update. K. Abbott.
- Urge Township Committee or Planning Board resolution requiring applicants to submit site plans, storm water plans, Environmental Impact Statements, engineer reports and other documents in pdf form.
- PSE&G's power line upgrade. About 2.5 miles are in Chatham Township. Of the 15 towns along the route Chatham Township has the second-longest run, after Livingston's 10 miles. Berkeley Heights has about 2 miles. Letter has been sent to NJDEP from CTEC urging good vegetation management in power line rights-of-way and revegetation with native species.

- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- April 2013. Letters concerning application to NJDEP for extension of Transition Area Waiver and General Permit by Home Help New Jersey, LLC sent to NJDEP, Morris County Planning Board, Morris County Park Commission.
- March 2013. Letter to three new owners of properties with conservation easements mentioning the existence of a conservation easement on part of their property.
- January 2013. Letter to NJDEP urging good vegetation management in power line rights-of-way, including the North Central Reliability Project, and revegetation with native species.

EVENTS

- May 13, 2013, Monday. The Challenges of Climate Change & Building Resilient Communities. A multidisciplinary discussion of climate change issues with experts from Montclair State University. 7 PM to 8:30 PM at the Somerset County Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, Basking Ridge, NJ. More info at www.GreatSwamp.org. Free but donations gratefully accepted.
- June 22, 2013, Saturday. Morris County electronics and hazardous waste recycling. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Morris County Public Safety Training Academy, 500 West Hanover Ave, Parsippany NJ 07054. QUESTIONS? Call (973) 631-5109, www.MCMUA.com.
- September 14, 2013, Saturday. Morris County electronics and hazardous waste recycling. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Morris County Public Safety Training Academy, 500 West Hanover Ave, Parsippany NJ 07054. QUESTIONS? Call (973) 631-5109, www.MCMUA.com.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers

ADJOURN 9:25 PM
Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary